

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a BID?

BID is an acronym for "Business Improvement District." It is essentially an assessment on property within a defined geographic boundary in which the revenues raised from this assessment are spent within the area. Funds are directed back to the defined area to finance enhanced services, which may include security, maintenance, marketing, economic development, parking, and special events.

Why are BIDs created?

BIDs represent an effort to create a sustainable funding source to surmount the limits of public resources, and to respond to challenges from regional malls or other competitive developments. The expected return to property owners is increased property value. The expected return to businesses is increased revenue.

Wasn't there already a BID Committee set up?

In 2008 and 2009, Great American Downtown established a BID Committee to study the possibility of creating a BID in Downtown Nashua. The GAD BID Committee proposed an ordinance to establish a formal Services Advisory Committee. In July, 2009, based on the recommendation of the GAD BID Committee, the Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance to create the Services Advisory Committee.

What does the Services Advisory Committee have to do with a BID?

BIDs are known in New Hampshire as Central Business Service Districts (CBSD). The State of New Hampshire has legislated that cities considering the establishment of a CBSD must set up a Services Advisory Committee. (RSA 31:120 -125). The purpose of the Services Advisory Committee is to make recommendations on the establishment and continued operation of a CBSD, also known as a BID.

What authority does the Services Advisory Committee have?

The Services Advisory Committee is empowered to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen. Mayor Lozeau and the Board of Aldermen established the Services Advisory Committee to recommend whether or not a Business Improvement District should be created for Downtown Nashua. Upon consultation with the Services Advisory Committee, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will define the boundaries of the BID, determine the assessment rate, select specific services to be provided, and authorize the department, agency, or organization to undertake the work. The Mayor also charged the Committee to consider all options to create a vibrant and sustainable Downtown.

Am I located within the BID, or not?

No geographic boundary for a BID in Nashua has been determined. The Services Advisory Committee will continue to meet to determine the need for a BID, as well as the location of any potential BID boundaries. The Services Advisory Committee has focused its analysis on the area that we commonly refer to as Downtown Nashua, which includes the Hunt Building on North Main Street to the Hunt Community Building on South Main Street and a few blocks east and west.

What will the assessment be in Nashua if a BID is created?

No assessment for a BID in Nashua has been determined. The Services Advisory Committee will continue to meet to determine if there is a need for a BID, as well as the amount of the assessment.

Is the Services Advisory Committee going to double the parking meter rates in Downtown Nashua?

The Services Advisory Committee does not have the authority to raise meter rates. They are developing a set of recommendations that will be reviewed by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, including the possibility of extending the time that meters are active (nights and weekends, in particular). The increased revenue generated from better parking management is one possible funding source for Downtown improvements.

The Services Advisory Committee has also researched the concept of “incentive pricing” for Downtown on-street parking. “Incentive pricing” means that on-street meter rates match the demand for the specific space. With this concept, more desirable locations would be priced higher (like spaces on Main Street) and less desirable locations would be lower (like the spaces a few blocks away or in municipal parking lots). This would lead to higher turnover of high demand spaces and direct long-term parkers to more remote spaces.

Who is on the Services Advisory Committee?

Mayor Lozeau appointed a diverse group of individuals to serve on the Services Advisory Committee. Appointments were made to ensure different geographic areas within Downtown Nashua are represented, as well as a representative group of stakeholders, including property owners and business owners.

The Members of the Services Advisory Committee are:

- Marylou Blaisdell, Chair
- Alderman Michael Tabacsko (Chair of the Board of Aldermen Planning and Economic Development Committee)
- Alderman Jeffrey Cox (Chair of the Board of Aldermen Infrastructure Committee)
- Arthur Bruinooge
- George Katis
- Rich Lannan
- Praveen Suchdev

How can I find out more about the Services Advisory Committee and how can I send them my thoughts?

A webpage has been set up for the Services Advisory Committee, which can be found here: <http://www.nashuanh.gov/CityGovernment/ServicesAdvisoryCommittee/tabid/900/Default.aspx>.

You may send any thoughts and comments you have about Downtown Nashua or a potential BID to [servicesadvisory@nashaunh.gov](mailto:servicesadvisory@nashaunh.gov).